



AUDIT SPECIALIST, INTERNAL

CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK:

This is professional, independent work involving the direction of internal audits of entities within a large state agency, department, or institution. The work includes reviewing files to prepare for the auditing process; analyzing accounting systems and financial records; auditing payrolls and individual accounts and ensuring compliance of accounting procedures with state and federal regulations; verifying provision of services; and preparing final audit reports for review by the agency's Audit Committee. Incumbents may perform special investigations. Supervision is received from an Internal Audit Supervisor.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

These minimum qualifications have been agreed upon by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in this job class and are based upon a job analysis and the essential functions. However, if a candidate believes he/she is qualified for the job although he/she does not have the minimum qualifications set forth below, he/she may request special consideration through substitution of related education and experience, demonstrating the ability to perform the essential functions of the position. Any request to substitute related education or experience for minimum qualifications must be addressed to the State Personnel Board in writing, identifying the related education and experience which demonstrates the candidate's ability to perform all essential functions of the position.

EXPERIENCE/EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

Two (2) years of experience as an Internal Audit Associate.

OR

Education:

A Master's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university in Accounting, Business Administration, or a closely related field;

AND

Experience:

One (1) year of experience in work directly related to the described duties.

OR

Education:

A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university in Accounting, Business Administration, or a closely related field;

AND

Experience:

Two (2) years of experience in work directly related to the described duties.

Substitution Statement:

Certification by the State of Mississippi as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) may be substituted for two (2) years of the required general or supervisory experience.

Certification as a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) by the Institute of Internal Auditors may be substituted for one (1) year of the required experience.

Required Document:

Applicant must attach a copy of his/her license as a Certified Public Accountant or certification as a Certified Internal Auditor, when applicable.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

These physical requirements are not exhaustive, and additional job related physical requirements may be added to these by individual agencies on an as needed basis. Corrective devices may be used to meet physical requirements. These are typical requirements; however, reasonable accommodations may be possible.

Light Work: May frequently walk or stand and/or frequently exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 10 pounds and/or occasionally exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 20 pounds.

Vision: Requires the ability to perceive the nature of objects by the eye.

Near Acuity: Clarity of vision at 20 inches or less.

Midrange: Clarity of vision at distances of more than 20 inches and less than 20 feet.

Far Acuity: Clarity of vision at 20 feet or more.

Ability to adjust focus: Ability to adjust the eye to bring an object into sharp focus.

Speaking/Hearing: Possesses the ability to give and receive information through speaking and listening skills.

Motor Coordination: While performing the duties of this job, the incumbent is regularly required to sit; and use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls. The incumbent is frequently required to stoop, kneel, crouch, or bend. The incumbent is occasionally required to stand; walk; reach with hands and arms; and climb or balance.

COMPETENCIES:

The following competencies describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes that lead to a successful employee in this position. An applicant will be expected to exhibit these competencies or the ability to reach competency achievement within a specified time. These competencies are linked to the essential functions of the job. Employees in this position may be evaluated on these competencies as part of the performance appraisal system. Example behaviors are listed below each competency and are used for illustrative purposes only. Specific behaviors may be identified and included later by the hiring

agency. It is understood that some of these behaviors might not be acquired until a reasonable time after hire. Failure of an employee to successfully demonstrate some or all of these competencies, as deemed important by his or her reporting official, may result in the employee being placed on a performance improvement plan. If after a reasonable period of time, usually three (3) months, the employee fails to demonstrate successful performance, the employee may be terminated. These competencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

PUBLIC SECTOR COMPETENCIES:

Integrity and Honesty: Demonstrates a sense of responsibility and commitment to the public trust through statements and actions.

Models and demonstrates high standards of integrity, trust, openness, and respect for others. Demonstrates integrity by honoring commitments and promises. Demonstrates integrity by maintaining necessary confidentiality.

Work Ethic: Is productive, diligent, conscientious, timely, and loyal.

Conscientiously abides by the rules, regulations, and procedures governing work.

Service Orientation: Demonstrates a commitment to quality public service through statements and actions.

Seeks to understand and meets and/or exceeds the needs and expectations of customers. Treats customers with respect, responding to requests in a professional manner, even in difficult circumstances. Provides accurate and timely service. Develops positive relationships with customers.

Accountability: Accepts responsibility for actions and results.

Is productive and carries fair share of the workload. Focuses on quality and expends the necessary time and effort to achieve goals. Demonstrates loyalty to the job and the agency and is a good steward of state assets. Steadfastly persists in overcoming obstacles and pushes self for results. Maintains necessary attention to detail to achieve high-level performance. Deals effectively with pressure and recovers quickly from setbacks. Takes ownership of tasks, performance standards, and mistakes. Has knowledge of how to perform one's job. Knows the organization's mission and functions and how it fits into state government.

Self Management Skills: Effectively manages emotions and impulses and maintains a positive attitude.

Encourages and facilitates cooperation, pride, trust, and group identity; fosters commitment and team spirit; works effectively and cooperatively with others to achieve goals. Treats all people with respect, courtesy, and consideration. Communicates effectively. Remains open to new ideas and approaches. Avoids conflicts of interest. Promotes cooperation and teamwork.

Interpersonal Skills: Shows understanding, courtesy, tact, empathy, and concern to develop and maintain relationships.

Demonstrates cross cultural sensitivity and understanding. Identifies and seeks to solve problems and prevent or resolve conflict situations. Encourages others through positive reinforcement.

Communication Skills: Receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and expresses information to individuals or groups effectively.

Receives other cues such as body language in ways that are appropriate to listeners and situations. Takes into account the audience and nature of the information; listens to others, attends to nonverbal cues, and responds appropriately. May make oral presentations. Communicates ideas, suggestions, and concerns, as well as outcomes and progress throughout the process of an activity. Provides thorough and accurate information.

Self-Development: Adapts behavior or work methods in response to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles.

Seeks efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills; uses training, feedback, or other opportunities for self-learning and development. Develops and enhances skills to adapt to changing organizational needs. Remains open to change and new information and ideas.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES:

Communication Skills: Shares information in writing or verbally.

Concisely and correctly answers questions and/or advises, explains or conveys information to internal/external customers and other professionals. Asks appropriate questions to gain information to accurately account for transactions and to resolve pertinent issues. Participates effectively in meetings, seminars, and training sessions. Presents written and oral information using proper grammar, punctuation, and content. Appropriately documents information using tools such as: journal entries, work papers, letters, e-mails, reports, memorandums, etc. Exercises professional courtesy in all communications.

Workflow Management: The ability and willingness to perform work within defined specifications and timelines and to manage conflicting priorities.

Schedules and manages workload to assist in achievement of desired goals. Effectively utilizes agency assets such as work time, computer equipment, supplies, etc. Resolves all tasks timely and accurately. Exercises appropriate level of professional skepticism based on information obtained. Adapts to a variety of situations and surroundings. Pays close attention to details and has the ability to work in a multi-task environment.

Functional Capability: Possesses or is capable for developing the specific knowledge and technical abilities to succeed in the specified position.

Possesses knowledge or proper accounting/auditing procedures such as accounts payable and related areas, financial entry preparation, fund accounting, and account reconciliation. Exercises an analytical thinking process. Has knowledge of professional accounting and auditing theory, methods, standards and procedures. Knowledge of the rules/regulations regarding governmental (fund) accounting and auditing procedures.

Professional Maturity: Possesses the capacities and aptitudes acquired by means of personal or professional experience, which enable functions to be fulfilled, and enables the incumbent to deal with situations in the workplace in a professional manner.

Is able to assess the situation and appropriately respond. Exhibits the appropriate degree of confidence, assertion, tolerance, patience, and empathy. Knows when to refer an issue to the appropriate level of management. Complies with agency standards. Responds appropriately to supervision and administrative decisions. Exhibits positive, influential attitude and work ethic among peers within work unit. Takes initiative to accomplish goals. Maintains appropriate standards of confidentiality.

Audit Performance: Possesses or is capable of possessing the abilities and attributes to successfully perform the duties of the job.

Possesses and applies appropriate level of accounting knowledge to analyze, record, and understand financial information.. Reviews files to prepare for the auditing process and holds pre-audit conferences with parties involved. Analyzes financial and accounting controls to determine the effectiveness of operation and to ascertain the extent to which assets are accounted for and safeguarded from losses. Studies payrolls and individual accounts and ensures compliance of accounting procedures with state and federal regulations. Performs audits of accounting systems, financial records, and services provided. Prepares written reports documenting findings of audits.

Technical: Is proficient in operating technical equipment in performing duties of the job.

Uses computer software to complete assigned tasks, meet agency goals, and produce required results. Possesses knowledge of Microsoft and other software products including but not limited to the following: Windows, word processing and spreadsheet applications, Internet applications, and general ledger software.

Mentoring and Training: The ability and willingness to take an active role in advising and guiding staff in the performance of work.

Mentors or otherwise assists co-workers as assigned helping them to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities. Develops co-workers' skills and encourages growth. Facilitates co-worker learning. Fosters a positive attitude.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Additional essential functions may be identified and included by the hiring agency. The essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Performs audits of accounting systems, financial records, and services provided.
2. Audits payrolls and individual accounts and ensures compliance of accounting procedures with state and federal regulations.
3. Prepares written reports documenting findings of audits.

EXAMPLES OF WORK:

Examples of work performed in this classification include, but are not limited to, the following:

Reviews files to prepare for the auditing process and holds pre-audit conferences with parties involved.

Travels to locations throughout the state to conduct audits.

Analyzes financial and accounting controls to determine the effectiveness of operation and to ascertain the extent to which assets are accounted for and safeguarded from losses.

Studies payrolls and individual accounts and ensures compliance of accounting procedures with state and federal regulations.

Discusses audit findings and recommendations with parties involved.

Prepares final audit reports for review by the agency's Audit Committee.

Performs related or similar duties as required or assigned.

INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

Any candidate who is called to an agency for an interview must notify the interviewing agency in writing of any reasonable accommodation needed prior to the date of the interview.